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An Interesting Bit of Southeast Missouri History

Dr. J. P. Sebastian of Williamsville, Mo., has sent us the following bit of interesting history of this immediate vicinity of Southeast Missouri, written by his sister, Mrs. M. C. Winn, from reminiscences of her adopted grandmother, Mrs. Meekie Caldwell, and her father, the late Judge E. C. Sebastian, early pioneers of Cook Settlement, with later facts within her own knowledge:

About the year 1810 quite a number of families came over from Kentucky, mostly from Harrison, Woodford, Scott, and Fayette counties, with others from Virginia, and pitched their tents in Upper Louisiana Territory in what is now known as St. Francois county, S. E. Missouri. Several years previous a grant of land including many of the pretty valleys of that country had been made to Nathaniel Cook, and in one of these the Kentucky Colony made its home and was known as Cook's Settlement. They were people of more than ordinary intelligence, frugal, and ambitious. They brought with them a goodly supply of farming implements and stock. Nearly all owned slaves who were also brought along. They also brought with them the enterprise, habits and tastes of Kentuckians, and some began to produce the well known results of such an immigration. Their advantages were few and their sacrifices many, but by industry and frugality they soon made for themselves comfortable homes which in time became beautiful. Ste. Genevieve, the oldest town in the territory, (thirty miles distant) was settled by French Catholics, who built the first church in Upper Louisiana, and as early as 1808 incorporated an academy by an act of the Governor of the Territory of Louisiana. They sent out Missionaries to all of the settlements and offered religious instructions to these as well as to the surrounding tribes of Indians. Very soon they established schools in what is now Perry county and at St. Michael's, now known as Fredericktown, Madison county, Mo.

Catholicism was the prevailing religion and aside from its churches none were to be found in the country, and though the colonists tried to have a few months of school during each year their efforts were often without avail. Most of the colony known as Cook's Settlement had been members of the Baptist church before leaving Kentucky, and these Catholic schools were not patronized to any extent by them. The younger members found employment during the day; the boys felling trees, plowing, sowing and reaping; the girls carding, spinning, weaving and making garments for the entire household, and at night by the blazing pine knot they scanned their lessons, depending on father, mother and chance visitors for explanation of same.

The local circumstances, the character of the original settlers, the occupation and above all the religious views and habits of thought often give to every district a certain unity of sentiment which resists innovation and is opposed to change. Such was the case in this community and these good people fell into the habit of meeting from house to house on the afternoon of each Lord's Day to read and study their Bible, and in this way the path was made straight for the march that was soon to begin. A commodious log school house was built and a teacher was imported from old Kentucky, but they were cut

off from all church privileges. In 1819 Rev. William McMurtry came out from Virginia and settled in what is now Madison county, which was two years previous to the admission of Missouri as a State. St. Louis was then a village not exceeding four thousand in population. Her citizens were mostly hunters, trappers and voyagers, and her currency was confined almost exclusively to whiskey, peltries, trinkets, home-made sugar, bees-wax and blankets. Soon after his arrival Rev. McMurtry started out to visit the adjoining settlements, and coming to Cook's Settlement found three women waiting his presence; one of these was my adopted grandmother, Mrs. Meekie Caldwell, and from her I have often heard the history of the beginnings of the first Christian church organized in what is now the State of Missouri. These people had brought over from their home church very unsettled ideas and some dissatisfaction caused by the religious upheaval in Kentucky and Virginia, and not till after several months was Rev. McMurtry able to organize a harmonious congregation.

One authority consulted says McMurtry was the first teacher of the new Faith in Missouri and presumably west of the Mississippi river. The first Christian church was organized in 1822 as Liberty, in the old log school house where is now located the village of Libertyville, St. Francois county, Mo. Soon after the organization the membership grew from three to nine, with one male member. Not till 1844 did they desert the old log school house, when a substantial commodious building was erected and Elder Jacob Creath held a four-weeks meeting. This greatly enlarged and strengthened the congregation and corrected some false ideas that until that time prevailed, "footwashing," for instance. The church was then placed on a firm footing and seldom has been without a regular pastor from that day to this. Though not numerically and financially as strong as in the past, yet they maintain a Bible school and observe regularly the ordinances of the church. It has received teaching from some of our ablest men, notably Jacob Creath who from time to time visited it till his death. W. H. Hopson repeatedly held meetings, also S. S. Church, Alex. Proctor, J. C. Reynolds, F. M. Stratton, J. H. Hardin, F. E. Meigs, E. R. Childers, H. F. Davis, besides their regular pastors, John Samuels, J. C. Farmer, A. G. Lucas, J. B. McGinn, R. Watson, W. H. Blanks, B. T. and Homer T. Wilson, T. E. Shepherd, J. D. Dillard, Geo. McGee, F. L. Moore, J. Wilkins, R. M. Talbert, E. M. Crackel, W. H. Hale, G. O. Nations and others of recent date.

This congregation has never sent out an ordained minister from its ranks but has furnished some excellent preachers' wives. The first I recall is Mrs. Alex. Proctor of Independence, Mo., Mrs. J. D. Dillard of St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. T. P. Reed of California and Mrs. R. M. Talbert of Jefferson City, Mo. Many representative men and women of this congregation are found in our city churches. A prominent member of the official board was reared in the congregation and I might mention others in our sister churches. A missionary spirit has always pervaded this people, but I regret that we have never been able to organize an annex to our C. W. B. M.

C. J. Adami Roughly Used

C. J. Adami, superintendent of the St. Joe Lead Co., was assaulted in Bonne Terre Tuesday evening by Bras Roughey, a miner, and severely beaten, sustaining injuries that will prove a permanent disfigurement. He was attacked from behind, knocked down, kicked and beaten. Several teeth were kicked out, and his mouth badly disfigured, and The Times has been informed that two of his ribs were broken.

This assault was the result of a supposed grudge that Roughey had long felt against Mr. Adami, arising over the fact that Roughey was not permitted to work in the mines, for the reason, so it is said, of his naturally quarrelsome nature and a disposition to "start a rough house." While Mr. Adami is disliked by many of the miners, owing to his method of handling the immense properties over which he has exclusive charge, it should always be remembered that Mr. Adami is also a salaried man, the same as are the miners themselves, and he has made a reputation for himself for his strict attention to business. The manner in which the St. Joe Lead Co. regards his services should be proof sufficient of his worth.

This brutal attack on him, The Times cannot believe, meets with the approval of any miners in that field. If any of Mr. Adami's actions, in the management of that property, are entitled to criticism, then it is those in higher authority who are to blame—not Mr. Adami.

Will Revive Old K. P. Lodge Here

W. F. Drummond, of Odessa, State Deputy Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, has spent several days in Farmington the past week, and for a time this city will be his headquarters, working in and out of this city through adjacent territory. His work in Farmington will be the reorganization and rebuilding of the K. P. lodge in this city, which has for some time been in a dormant condition.

Most of the local members of this splendid fraternal order have grown old and somewhat neglectful of lodge duties and privileges, but many of the older members are now greatly enthused with the prospects of the rejuvenation of the local lodge, which is, financially, one of the most prosperous lodges in the State, having more than \$7,000 in its treasury. The K. P. is an excellent organization, and Mr. Drummond already has a considerable class of young blood ready for initiation into the order to-morrow night.

At a meeting of this lodge held Tuesday night, W. B. Rariden was elected delegate to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, which will be held in Springfield on May 25th. T. J. Short was elected alternate.

Public Library in New Quarters

The Farmington Public Library was removed last Saturday from the Telle building to a room on the first floor of the Farmers Bank building. This institution has had rather a rapid and successful growth and is one of the enterprises in which our town takes a reasonable pride. It now has 3,000 volumes, or more, comprising historical, biographical, scientific, literary and other lines of reading, from which the lovers of books may make selections. It is open every day for the accommodation of the reading public, and the many who take advantage of its privileges attest its popularity.

There are few if any families in Farmington and vicinity who do not find it a source of much pleasure and profit, and the more ambitious and forward-looking students of our public schools find it a great help in supplying them facts and references needed in their school literary and composition work. It has encouraged a taste for reading among our people as well as given them access to the productions of many of the best American and European authors.

Those who have taken an active and leading part in the initiation and gradual advancement of the Library are deserving of much credit. There will be no lack of interest on their part in improving and adding to its advantages, and there should be none on the part of the reading public, but everything should be done to promote its growth until it becomes one of the best circulating libraries of any of the smaller cities of the State. Encourage us with your patronage, gifts of good books and money donations. A good public library gives character to a town.

What Would You Do if It Was Yours

If you were the owner of a dog that you loved, and someone would poison the animal, what would you do, in case you had positive evidence as to who had administered the poison? That is a question that everyone should put to themselves, seriously, before they put out poison for the purpose of getting rid of dogs that may occasionally come around their homes. This is a serious question, as great love and affection is bestowed upon many dogs by their owners, and who can say that such love is misplaced? Many persons will fight for their dogs, almost as they would for their children. The average dog is entitled to some consideration.

Should they become bothersome to you, then it should be your right to complain to the owner, and at least give him a chance to restrain the dog from further annoyance of you. Should the owner fail, or refuse, to make any attempt to restrain his dog from prowling around your premises, that would be sufficient time for you to take steps to protect the peace and comfort of your family. Is that not true?

Recently there appears to have been considerable poisoning of dogs in Farmington. Can you blame the owner of a fine dog that has been mysteriously poisoned for desiring to find out who is responsible for his dog's death? No one who is worthy of being the master of a dog would enjoy seeing his dog "kicked around," much less poisoned. Many dogs are a real asset, and often become practically invaluable about the home. Everyone should consider the matter carefully before putting out poison for prowling dogs. What if your own dog got that poison? This is a matter that should be considered from a personal standpoint. It is not right to put out poison, and then shut up your own dog.

E. M. Laakman went to St. Louis yesterday morning on business.

Future Plans for Farm Bureau Work

Have you read the fourth-page advertisement of the Farm Bureau in this week's paper? It gives some idea of the scope of the work that the Farm Bureau is going to undertake.

Notice the local features and the benefits derived. Membership in the County Farm Bureau carries with it, without extra cost, membership in the livestock shipping association, as well as membership in the purchasing association. Non-members wishing to do business through either, are subject to an extra charge. Local membership also entitles the family to all the benefits resulting from the presence of the County Agent and a Home Demonstration Agent in the county. There are but fourteen counties in the State which have both.

But the advantages of membership in the St. Francois County Farm Bureau are more than local. Each membership carries with it membership in the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. The State Federation is planning great things for the farmers of Missouri. In fact the executive committee is in session this week planning some definite and worth-while pieces of constructive work.

Moreover, membership in the local organization carries with it membership in the American Farm Bureau Federation, which with financial resources amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, is in a position to secure the services of experts who will look after the interests of the farmer in legislative matters, before the Interstate Commerce Commission, with the press of the country, etc. At the present time the National organization is taking a referendum on the Nolan bill which proposes to shift some of the excess profits tax onto the farmer. When the questionnaires are turned in to National headquarters from the farmers east, west, north and south, our representative can go before Congress and speaking for the Farm Bureau members of the whole United States, make himself heard and headed as well as the representatives of capital and of organized labor have made themselves heard hitherto.

The whole Farm Bureau movement is eminently worth while. Its plans for the future include not only selfish profit for the farmer, but a better and brighter day for all fair-minded and patriotic citizens.

William Bethel Gets Five Years

Much interest was manifested in the trials of William and Edward Bethel in the Iron county circuit court this week. There are three counts against the two of them for robbery. They were to be tried separately, and the first trial, which came up Tuesday, was of Wm. Bethel, and a number of witnesses from Farmington were in attendance.

The State proved conclusively that much, if not all of the stolen property, had been found in the possession of the defendants, which they claimed to have purchased from Raymond Gordon, a young man who resides in Ironton. Their testimony appeared to hang together very well on the direct examination, but on cross-examination both William and Edward Bethel became somewhat tangled up, making their testimony quite contradictory.

The jury's verdict in the first case coincided with the general opinion of those hearing the evidence, and returned a verdict of guilty, assessing punishment at five years in the penitentiary. It is extremely difficult for many who knew these boys during their residence in this city, especially Edward Bethel, to believe that he is guilty of criminality, but it is now for him to prove his innocence in his trial which is now in progress.

Admitted to \$4,000 Bail

Ike Novak and Simon Silverhorn, who were arrested in St. Louis last week for the robbery of one of the Goff stores at Desloge recently, and who have been in jail here, were admitted to bail Tuesday in the sum of \$4,000 each.

Some of the stolen goods were found in the possession of each of these parties, as well as goods that were stolen from the other Goff store at the same place, which had been robbed several months previously.

EASTER SONG SERVICE

The Easter Song Service rendered at the M. E. Church, South, Sunday evening, was one of the best song services that Farmington people have had the pleasure of hearing. The church decorations and white costumes worn by the singers added to the spirit and beauty of the program.

Democrats Elect State Delegates and Pass Resolutions

The Democratic delegate convention for St. Francois county for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Democratic Convention, to be held in Joplin April 22nd, was held in the circuit court room in Farmington last Saturday, April 3rd. At 1:30 o'clock the meeting was called to order by J. J. Bowman, chairman of the Democratic County Committee, who proceeded to read the official call for the meeting.

C. R. Pratt, of Flat River, was chosen as temporary chairman, and Mrs. G. B. Snider was selected as temporary secretary. The large court room was comfortably filled with delegates and interested party workers.

The chairman then appointed committees on Credentials, Permanent Organization, Nominations and Resolutions.

After a brief recess, the committees made their reports, all of which were unanimously adopted, and the meeting passed into history as one of the most quiet and harmonious conventions that was ever held in St. Francois county. The presence of so many women delegates doubtless had much to do with the absolute harmony which marked the proceedings.

The Committee on Permanent Organization composed of J. G. Layne, Randolph Township; E. E. Turley, Perry Township; Mrs. J. M. Webb, St. Francois Township; Mrs. C. H. Lucy, Iron Township, make the following recommendations, that the temporary organization, which was composed of C. R. Pratt as chairman, and Mrs. G. B. Snider as secretary, be made permanent.

The Committee on Nominations, composed of J. H. Tetley of St. Francois Township; W. T. O'Neal of Randolph Township; Mrs. Robt. Moran of Perry Township, and Mr. Papin of Marion Township, nominated the following delegates to the State Democratic Convention to be held at Joplin, Mo., April 22, 1920:

John Henry Jones, Geo. K. Williams, Amos C. Norwine, Dr. C. P. Poston, H. C. Johnson, C. R. Pratt, W. T. O'Neal, Jno. Ball, Homer Presnell, Rev. J. W. Ham, E. E. Swink, Miss Alice Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Robt. Moran, Mrs. Sam J. Tetley, Mrs. Jerry B. Burks, Mrs. C. H. Lucy, Mrs. Jno. Ball, Mrs. C. R. Pratt, Mrs. Geo. Houser and Miss Mildred Keith.

Resolutions

The Committee on Resolutions, composed of G. C. Vandover, St. Francois Township; Robt. Hibbits, Liberty Township; W. T. Newby, Marion Township, and Mrs. L. L. Page of Perry Township, submit the following

City Election Very Quiet

The city and school elections in Farmington Tuesday passed with scarcely a ripple to disturb the usual serenity of life in this community. An exceedingly light vote was cast, and no special interest was manifested.

Collector—	1	2	3	4	Total
J. P. Zolman	26	44	41	15	126
Geo. Forster	20	57	33	31	141
Police Judge—					
C. J. Harrelson	15	28	24	12	91
S. P. Counts	31	69	42	33	175
Alderman, 1st ward—Edward J. Lotz					48
Alderman, 2nd ward—Rolla Cozean					102
Alderman, 3rd ward—T. V. Brown					70
Alderman, 4th ward—W. H. Beard					47
School Director—					
Ed Klein	46	102	67	43	258
Benj. Marbury	41	99	63	45	248
For levy of \$1.00	34	87	48	36	205
Against levy of \$1.00	12	16	14	10	51
For levy of 35 cents	34	82	54	37	207
Against levy of 35 cents	12	17	17	9	55

A Most Disagreeable Easter

Easter Sunday, contrary to its generally accepted nature of beauty and peacefulness, came in and went out as a "roaring lion". The day dawned under heavy banks of clouds, and throughout the day there was not a ray of sunshine. Rain fell throughout the morning, but soon after mid-day the scenes were suddenly shifted, and snow and sleet continued to add to the disagreeableness of a real winter day, one of the most continuously blustery of the entire winter.

The naturally disagreeable day, however, was given a silver lining in this city by beautiful services in commemoration of the Risen Christ, which were calculated to make the different congregations forget the temporal disadvantages of this most important of all church days, which was calculated to bring a feeling of thankfulness to all, even though it was not an occasion for the advantageous display of Easter millinery.

resolutions:
The Democrats of St. Francois county, in convention assembled, reaffirm their adherence to the principles of the great party of Jefferson and believe that in the intelligent application of these principles to all public questions will be found a solution of all the problems of Democratic government.

We unreservedly endorse the administration of our great President, Woodrow Wilson, as to his domestic and foreign policy, the rare statesmanship, broad humanity and high ideals that have directed our foreign policy have secured to our government a moral pre-eminence among the nations of the earth never before enjoyed by any other nation, and with all true Americans feel an honest pride in the energetic, efficient and successful prosecution of the late war.

We also, at this time, wish to commend the administration for placing this great country of ours in the forefront of the civilized nations of the earth.

We endorse the League of Nations and believe its adoption holds out the only hope of the future peace of the world and the rehabilitation of the devastated nations of Europe.

We also condemn the conduct and deplore the attitude of Jas. A. Reed in the Senate of the U. S. on the many domestic measures and policies which he has so inappropriately opposed and especially do we denounce his stand on the aforesaid covenant of the League of Nations, as arbitrary, demagogic and out of harmony with the will and wishes of the great majority of the loyal Democrats of this State, by whom he was elected and for whom he has shown such ill-disguised contempt.

We also desire to commend the wise statesmanlike business administration of our War Governor, Frederick D. Gardner, for under his guidance and leadership, the Imperial commonwealth of Missouri now stands financially as never before in its history. Missouri is out of debt and no financial embarrassment confronts us in any way or form.

We also desire to commend the Democratic officials of St. Francois county for their manly efforts and efficiency in office.

Be it further resolved by the Democrats of this convention, that the delegates sent from this county vote as a unit upon all questions at the State Convention held at Joplin, and that the delegates present at the Democratic State Convention at Joplin, Mo., vote the entire vote of the St. Francois county delegation.

ed. There was no contest for any of the positions to be filled, except for the offices of City Collector and Police Judge.

The following is the vote for city officers, school board members and on the two proposed school levies:

Wards	1	2	3	4	Total
Collector—					
J. P. Zolman	26	44	41	15	126
Geo. Forster	20	57	33	31	141
Police Judge—					
C. J. Harrelson	15	28	24	12	91
S. P. Counts	31	69	42	33	175
Alderman, 1st ward—Edward J. Lotz					48
Alderman, 2nd ward—Rolla Cozean					102
Alderman, 3rd ward—T. V. Brown					70
Alderman, 4th ward—W. H. Beard					47
School Director—					
Ed Klein	46	102	67	43	258
Benj. Marbury	41	99	63	45	248
For levy of \$1.00	34	87	48	36	205
Against levy of \$1.00	12	16	14	10	51
For levy of 35 cents	34	82	54	37	207
Against levy of 35 cents	12	17	17	9	55

This Waste Should Be Utilized

Another movement is now on foot in Farmington to attempt to locate a factory in the splendid Carleton College property in this city. Locations for factories are constantly being sought, and unquestionably this would be an almost ideal site for a factory location. The one essential thing seems to be to bring it properly to the attention of parties who are seeking a factory location.

Every citizen of Farmington and community should be enthusiastic over such a proposition. No town can have a better asset than a factory location, where perhaps hundreds of people would be regularly employed. Can you imagine what a stimulus such an institution would be to this city, which would furnish life, health and happiness to perhaps a thousand people? The benefits that would result to this community would be almost inestimable.

If you believe in progress, it is your duty as a loyal Farmington citizen, to push forward such an enterprise with all your might. Get busy.

MRS. O. J. MAYBERRY'S NAME NOT ON TICKET

Mrs. O. J. Mayberry, who was endorsed by the Fortnightly Club and urged by her many friends to be a candidate for School Director, refused to have her name placed upon the ticket.

Women on school boards have proven a necessary asset in other places and it is sure that when Farmington people give them a trial they will be of the same opinion. For we all know that there is nothing that has "a feather's weight of worth without a woman in it."

Tornado and Windstorm

INSURANCE ON
CITY AND FARM PROPERTY

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FARMINGTON, MO.